

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 073883
ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 SAB-02 AID-05 IO-14 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /075 R

DRAFTED BY L/ARA:T.FORTUNE:JV

APPROVED BY L/ARA:M.KOZAK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 073883

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PN

SUBJECT: TREATY DEBATES: SENATOR CHURCH REMARKS, MARCH
20

1. THE FOLLOWING REMARKS BY SENATOR CHURCH DURING DEBATE
MARCH 20 REFLECT FAVORABLY ON U.S.-PANAMANIAN RELATIONS
AND MAY, THEREFORE, BE USEFUL FOR DISTRIBUTION IN PANAMA.

BEGIN TEXT: "I, FOR ONE, WISH THEM TO KNOW IN PANAMA THAT
THERE ARE AMERICANS WHO APPRECIATE THE LONG, THE FAITHFUL
FRIENDSHIP THAT PANAMANIAN PEOPLE HAVE SHOWN TOWARD THE
UNITED STATES FOR THE PAST 75 YEARS.

I, FOR ONE, WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE AMERICANS,
AND I BELIEVE THEM TO BE IN THE GREAT MAJORITY, WHO APPRE-
CIATE THE FACT THAT PANAMA STOOD BY US AS AN ALLY OF THE
UNITED STATES IN BOTH WORLD WARS OF THIS CENTURY. INDEED,
IF MY INFORMATION IS CORRECT, THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT,
FOLLOWING PEARL HARBOR, ACTUALLY DECLARED WAR AGAINST
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JAPAN BEFORE THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES DID.

WHEN I HEAR SOME OF THE DEPRECATING ARGUMENTS DIRECTED
TOWARD PANAMA AND THE PANAMANIAN, I THINK WE OUGHT TO
REMIND OURSELVES OF THAT LONG PERIOD OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN

THIS SMALL COUNTRY, PANAMA, AND THE UNITED STATES OF

AMERICA.

IT IS TO PRESERVE THE BASIS FOR THAT FRIENDSHIP THAT WE HAVE THIS TREATY NOW BEFORE US. TO DO RIGHT BY THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA WILL ENABLE US TO PRESERVE THAT CLOSE AND FRIENDLY TIE IN THE FUTURE.

MR. PRESIDENT, NOTHING COULD BE MORE INJURIOUS TO SUCH AN OBJECTIVE THAN TO ADOPT THE AMENDMENT OFFERED BY THE SENATOR FROM KANSAS. IT SUGGESTS THAT WE HAVE NO MEMORY; THAT 75 YEARS OF FIDELITY MEAN NOTHING TO US.

I DO NOT WANT TO SEE THE CLOSE TIES, THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA JEOPARDIZED, BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT HAS KEPT HOSTILE FORCES OUT OF THE ISTHMUS ALL THESE YEARS. IT IS A RELATIONSHIP TO BE PRESERVED, AND IT IS THE BASIS FOR KEEPING FOREIGN TROOPS AWAY FROM THE CANAL IN THE FUTURE." END TEXT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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